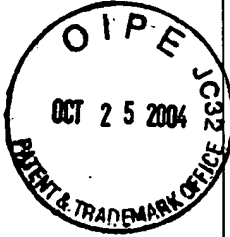


6P1648

[Handwritten signature]

HUBR 1067.3 DIV (10105485)



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

10/22/04 Fani Malikouzakis
Date Name: Fani Malikouzakis

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Christoph SEIDEL et al.
Serial No : 09/896,032
Filed : June 29, 2001
For : METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV
 SEROCONVERSION
Art Unit : 1648
Examiner : Donna C. Wortman

October 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

SIR:

This is in response to the Office Action of August 12, 2004, wherein the Examiner withdrew a prior notice of allowable subject matter, raised new issues, and presented new rejections.

Please amend the application as follows: